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**RENO, NEVADA MAN INDICTED ON CHILD EXPLOITATION CHARGES**

**SACRAMENTO**--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment charging THOMAS ANTHONY HYATT, 39, of Reno, Nevada with traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts and contact with a minor, and using the mail and a means of interstate commerce to persuade a minor to engage in sexual activity.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Sacramento Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Task Force.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Carolyn K. Delaney, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment and complaint allege that between December 13, 2004 and May 18, 2005, HYATT used the mail and the internet to persuade a minor to engage in sexual contact, and that on May 16, 2005, HYATT traveled from his home in Reno, Nevada, to Truckee, California, to a hotel to meet the person with whom he had been communicating - an undercover agent posing as a 13-year-old girl - for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each offense of the crimes charged is 30 years in prison.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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